The monument and battlefield grounds at Chalmette National Historic Site.
In military history there has been many confrontations in which the outnumbered force was victorious, but few such battles were more decisive than the Battle of New Orleans.

In that shootout, 4,000 members of Andrew Jackson's rag tab army met 5,400 crack British troops. When it was over more than 2,000 British soldiers had been killed. American losses stood at seven killed, six wounded.

That historic last major battle of the War of 1812 took place at dawn Jan. 8, 1815, and was fought on the east bank of the Mississippi River, five miles from the heart of New Orleans.

Today it is preserved by the National Park Service as Chalmette National Historical Site or Chalmette Battlefield, a serene, 140-acre park. A beautiful plantation home of the 1830-50 period stands in solitary splendor in a corner of the park, reflecting the hospital warmth and inner glow characteristic of the culture that produced it.

And charming young ladies in antebellum dress (volunteer park workers) reinforce the languid mood. These are hostesses from New Orleans high schools, steeped in knowledge of the history of the area and eager to share it.

As you enter the park, a major New Orleans landmark and one that visitors to the city should not miss, you will see on the left a restored section of the American defense line which was about a mile long in 1815 with its right anchored to the Mississippi River and its left on an impassable swamp. It was built of fence rails, posts, wooden kegs and mud.

Commemorating the battle is a 100-foot high monument on the American line. The cornerstone for this monument was laid on Jan. 13, 1840, a few days after Andrew Jackson, himself, revisited the scene of his triumph 25 years earlier.

The visitor center is in the antebellum Beauregard House, which was apparently built in the 1830's and altered in the 1850's or 60's. It was once owned by Judge Rene Beauregard, son of the Confederate general. The restored structure houses a battle museum on the second floor and is a remarkable example of French-Louisiana architecture.

The National Park Service also administers Chalmette National Cemetery at the site. The cemetery was established in May, 1864 and the first people buried there were men who died in the many Civil War hospitals in the area.

Veterans of two world wars, the Spanish-American War and the Vietnam War are also buried there, along with four veterans of the War of 1812, who were reinterred at Chalmette.

The park is open daily except on Christmas Day, New Year's Day and at Mardi Gras.

If you are planning to visit a National Park Service area on your vacation, write the agency at P.O. Box 728, Room A-5 Santa Fe, N.M. 87501. You'll be sent a free brochure that lists NPS areas near your home and charts facilities and services available at each.